

U. S. Denies 2 Tourists Were Spies

Associated Press
The State Department yesterday said it was satisfied that Harvey C. Bennett and Mark I. Kaminsky, detained in the Soviet Union for several weeks and recently released, were legitimate tourists.

Soviet authorities accused one of the traveling companions of spying and sentenced him to seven years, then expelled both men.

State Department press officer Joseph Reap was asked at a news conference yesterday what he would say about a report by Columnist Drew Pearson that the two men were under contract with the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency to report on their observations in the Soviet Union.

"The only comment I can make," said Reap, "is that we are absolutely satisfied that Mr. Bennett and Mr. Kaminsky were bona fide tourists."

Kaminsky and Bennett said they traveled to Russia under scholarship of \$2000 each from the Northcraft Educational Fund, Philadelphia. Pass, the Soviet news agency, has called Northcraft a "spy organization."

The Internal Revenue Service said Northcraft is not a tax-exempt educational organization.

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